

Café Explore – August 2021



In 'normal' years August is thought of as a time for fun, sunshine and enjoyment, many people are on holiday and the TV offers little as the expectation is that less are watching!

But I wonder if when you have turned on to watch the news, listened to the radio news or read our church family news in recent days that everything is becoming so overwhelming.

What am I talking about? Well grab your coffee and let's explore together.

Questions to ponder

Which stories in the news are affecting you most? Make a list.

Does your list look a bit like this –

Afghanistan, Haiti, Covid, Refugees, Migrants, Wildfires, Floods, Climate Change, . . .

Then there are the personal problems of your own or of family and friends which may be crowding in on you.

There, that is another list to be written.

Have you responded in any way to the items on your lists?

Some of you may have been able to respond this week in providing clothing and essentials for some of the Afghan refugees here in Scarborough.

We have been made aware of translators in Afghanistan who aided UK and US forces in their 'mission' and are now fearful for their lives as the Taliban seek them out as enemies. Then there are the women and girls whose lives will dramatically change losing their freedom and rights to work and learn.

And that is the first on the list.

It is so overwhelming, such sadness, such distress, such worrying times. What else can we do?

We can pray. But what if the words don't come or there are too many words to be spoken?

Philip Yancy in his book 'Prayer, does it make any difference' writes of times when he has been invited to speak abroad and needed translators to communicate with his audience. He goes on to remind us that Paul in Romans gives us the promise that in prayer we have the perfect translator so even our 'wordlessness' finds its way to the source of all grace.

Scripture - Romans 8:26 - New International Version - UK

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

We can acknowledge our weakness when overwhelmed by news stories. **We can ask for help.**

The Holy Spirit takes on our prayers, knowing our hearts are breaking with all the sadness and despair of people in so many places.

Prayer

Lord, I don't know how to pray for all the troubles in our world, help me.

Read out the single words on your lists from above then again pray

Lord, I don't know how to pray for all the troubles in our world, help me.

Thinking time again!

Does prayer make any difference?

Let us all find time and a space to call upon the Holy Spirit to intercede and put our trust in God.

Song

Find the following on You Tube, the words are so apt for times like these.

God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness) - Worship & Justice song by Graham Kendrick

God Bless

Marie